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such plan in view, when he said, 'We daily make great improvements in *natural*, there is one I wish to see in *moral* philosophy; the discovery of a plan that would induce and oblige nations to settle their disputes without first cutting one another's throats.' Something of the kind the illustrious Jefferson seems likewise to have had in view, when, speaking of the inefficiency of war in redressing wrong, and of its multiplying, instead of indemnifying losses, he exclaimed, 'These truths are palpable, and must, in the progress of time, have their influence on the minds and conduct of nations.' And in authorising his name to be registered among the names of the members of the Massachusetts Peace Society, he gave still stronger testimony in favor of pacific principles and measures."

Our readers will perceive that most of these extracts are answers to the reasons assigned by the committee in Congress (1838) for declining to take *immediate* measures towards securing a Congress of Nations. That committee were in a delicate predicament not uncommon with politicians in a republic. Their judgment most obviously approved the proposal of an international tribunal as a substitute for war; but, unwilling then to take any decisive step towards it, they tortured their ingenuity to frame a plausible excuse for denying the prayer of the petitioners, until the popular will should be so fully expressed as to make it safe for statesmen to move in earnest on the subject. Thorough investigation would put these and all other objections to flight; but rulers can be moved to action only by a general and urgent demand from the people.

REFERENCE BETTER THAN LITIGATION.

WASHINGTON'S DYING TESTIMONY.

Practical wisdom was the prominent trait in the character of Washington; and we are glad to find in his will, dated July 9, 1790, so strong a testimony as the following, to the value of arbitration:

"In the construction of this will and testament, it will be readily perceived that no professional character has been consulted, or had any agency in the draught; and that, although it has occupied many of my leisure hours to digest, and to throw it into its present form, it may, notwithstanding, appear crude and incorrect; but having endeavored to be plain and explicit in all the devises, even at the expense of prolixity, perhaps of tautology, I hope and trust that no disputes will arise concerning them. But if, contrary to expectations, the case should be otherwise, from want of legal expressions, or the usual technical terms, or because too much or too little has

been said on any of the devises, to be consonant with law, my will and direction expressly is, that all disputes, if unhappily any should arise, shall be decided by three impartial and intelligent men, known for their probity and good understanding; two to be chosen by the disputants, each having the choice of one, and the third by those two; which three men, thus chosen, shall, unfettered by law, or legal constructions, declare their sense of the testator's intention; and such decision is, to all intents and purposes, to be as binding on the parties, as if it had been given in the Supreme Court of the United States."

EFFECT OF WAR DISTURBANCES IN CANADA ON MISSIONARY EFFORTS THERE.

We met, last summer, a clergyman who had been obliged to leave Upper Canada, because the commotions there had for the time put an end to his usefulness; and not long since we were informed by the Secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, that *all* their missionaries had been driven from that Province, and its only Presbytery annihilated by the same causes. Statements of like tenor we have found in a variety of public prints during the past year; and there is reason to believe that the rebellion has well nigh neutralized most of the efforts made for the advancement of religion in both the Canadas.

We have recently seen some account of the effect produced by those disturbances on the Swiss Mission at Grand Ligne, L. C. The families connected with the Mission were scattered by the first insurrection; and on their return, they found "their homes scenes of deep poverty; their furniture and crops had been carried off or destroyed by their insurgent countrymen." The second insurrection renewed all the evils of the first.

"This miserable people," says Madame Feller, a member of the Mission, "abused by their leaders, have risen anew in the districts nearest the frontier. On Saturday we observed a great movement in our neighborhood, and in the evening learned that the village of Napierville, four leagues distant, had been taken by the insurgents, and all the loyal subjects there put in irons. The next day (Sunday) the chiefs visited every house, for the purpose of *compelling* the men to join them. A considerable number were unwilling to do it, and yielded only to threats and fear. We were quiet till three o'clock, when a troop of men on horseback came to the house. Their chief, on entering, commanded brother Rilling to follow them,